

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Substitute the following claims for the pending claims having the same numbers.

1-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) ~~The method according to Claim 1, wherein the forming step further comprises~~

A method of installing a latch profile in a tubular string in a subterranean well, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning the tubular string in the subterranean well; and

then forming the latch profile in the tubular string, including piercing the tubular string, thereby forming at least one opening in a sidewall of the tubular string.

26. (original) The method according to Claim 25, wherein the forming step further comprises forming multiple ones of the openings.

27. (original) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the forming step further comprises spacing apart the openings in a predetermined pattern, thereby facilitating radial orientation of an apparatus engaged with the openings after the forming step.

28. (original) The method according to Claim 25, further comprising the step of injecting a sealant into the opening, thereby preventing fluid flow through the tubular string sidewall via the opening.

29-39. (canceled)

40. (original) A method of installing a latch profile in a tubular string in a subterranean well, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning the tubular string in the subterranean well; and

then cutting into an interior surface of the tubular string, thereby forming a predetermined pattern of recesses on the interior surface, the pattern of recesses making up the latch profile.

41. (original) The method according to Claim 40, further comprising the step of engaging an apparatus with the recesses after the cutting step, the predetermined pattern thereby radially orienting the apparatus relative to the tubular string.

42. (original) The method according to Claim 41, wherein the cutting and engaging steps are performed in a single trip into the tubular string.

43. (original) The method according to Claim 40, wherein the cutting step further comprises extending the recesses through a sidewall of the tubular string, thereby forming openings in the sidewall.

44. (original) The method according to Claim 43, further comprising the step of injecting sealant into the openings, thereby preventing fluid flow through the openings.

45. (original) The method according to Claim 40, wherein the cutting step is performed by drilling into the interior surface.

46. (original) The method according to Claim 40, wherein the cutting step is performed by milling the interior surface.

47-67. (canceled)